GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4883
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2014
RESEARCH STATIONS IN ARCTIC AND ANTARCTICA
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government proposes to set up more research stations in Arctic and Antarctica;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) Whether India has ice-breakers for exploration and research in the above places;

(e) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps contemplated by the Government for the manufacture of indigenous ice-breakers?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (Independent Charge)(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) India presently has two research stations at Antarctica namely 'Maitri' and 'Bharati'. New station 'Bharti 'has been constructed and established in March, 2013. At both the stations, research and investigations are undertaken to understand the Polar processes and phenomenon. Observations and studies are carried out in atmospheric, biological, geological, ecological sciences, etc. Maitri station has been in operation since 1989.

Indian Arctic station 'Himadri' is located at Ny Alesund, Spitsbergen Island, Norway and serves as a hub of Indian scientific investigations since 2008.

(d) No Madam.

(e) In Antarctica scientific studies and investigations are undertaken on the continental part and contiguous shelf ice part. Observations in the ocean in summer months are made during the voyage to 'Maitri' and 'Bharati' on board the chartered vessel hired for transport of material and personnel to these stations.

At Arctic also meteorological, biological, glaciological and past climate studies are undertaken in the vicinity of the station 'Himadri'. Local boats are hired for marine research. Chartered ice-breaker ship along with Cargo vessel were used during the construction of the 'Bharati' station in Larsemann hills, East Antarctica. Chartered ice class cargo vessel is presently used for transporting personnel and material for the 'Maitri' and 'Bharti' stations.

(f) Acquisition/construction of Polar Research Vessel is under consideration.